

INTRODUCING MELBOURNE



Mosaic street couch, Fitzroy

Melbourne, like its famed city laneways, is many layered. Brainy and industrious, imaginative and creative; cool and cliquey, welcoming and generous; resolutely urbane and irrevocably suburban. Melbourne's contradictions are worth uncovering.

It's a city that's prolific in architecture, performance, live music and the visual arts. Life buzzes in its beautifully designed interior spaces: 'culture and recreation' (substitute the word fun if you like) is the city's largest industry. Melbourne is also sporty and outdoorsy, with a wealth of wonderful parks and close proximity to stunning beaches and bushland. Melburnians often coquettishly fish for compliments about their city, with a second-city diffidence, but they know they have it good. Their city regularly makes it into the world's 'most liveable' lists.

As intriguing as the city centre is, it's worth taking the time to explore at least a few inner-city neighbourhoods. The main attraction is not going to be a must-see sight, rather it's the quotidian pleasures that the city does so well: shopping, sipping coffee, strolling through a park, catching up at the pub. You'll see what makes Melburnians tick.

Beyond Melbourne's urban attractions, Victoria offers an astounding diversity of landscapes – from the prettily bucolic to the wild and windswept, from the alpine to the arid – all within a relatively small area. Dotted throughout this stunning scenery is a wealth of historic country towns. Outdoor adventure is as varied as the countryside itself: rockclimbing, horseriding, diving, surfing, sailing, skiing, hiking and mountain biking can all be attempted within just a few days.

CITY LIFE

Melbourne is home to nearly 3.8 million people. It's one of the world's youngest cities yet also one of the longest-inhabited places on earth. If the city's citizens look like a varied bunch, it's because they are: one third of Melbourne's population were born overseas. A long history of migration has enriched the city with fresh and unfamiliar tastes, textures, viewpoints and beliefs. Around 180 languages echo through its streets and over 100 faiths are practiced. Many Melburnians have backgrounds spanning multiple ethnicities and are living symbols of the city's harmony.

Melbourne's mood is often considered serious and bookish. That intellectual image is softened by a sensuality uncommon in Australian cities. People aren't afraid to look each other in the eye, to appreciate details. Street life here has a sexy, celebratory edge. Sartorial style is important, although Melburnians like to appear effortlessly thrown together rather than 'done'.

Locals enjoy an enviable array of top-notch cultural and sporting facilities, and the city is filled with interested chat: what's on, who's in town, how the winner did it. The many bars, cafes, shops and restaurants draw on the best from around the world while retaining an easy-going quintessentially Australian feel. There are tourist traps and purely dollar-driven establishments, but businesses are more usually built on creativity and love. They have soul.

Although economically prosperous, Melbourne also faces great environmental challenges. Melburnians claim to be totally devoted to their trams and bike lanes, but the sprawling city remains car-centric. A long drought and a mild (if somewhat sulky) climate has made it clear what a precious resource water is; after years of below-average rainfall, water supplies sit far below half-capacity. Melburnians have responded to water restrictions with a new-found sense of communal responsibility and drive to live sustainably.

Out of town the pace might be slow and laidback, but regional menus and wine lists, produce shops and markets ooze with a gentle sophistication many big cities would envy. Victorians make time to enjoy the good life too.

GETTING STARTED

Don't think you'll have Melbourne all to yourself. It's a favourite destination for sports fans and culture vultures as well as short urban breaks. Hotel prices skyrocket and rooms book out for any major event. Victoria is Australia's smallest mainland state but it boasts an astonishing number of national parks, historic towns and stunning natural landscapes. Getting around is easy, by car at least, and distances between attractions are manageable enough to make combining a night on the town and a day in the country very possible. You can reach most of the state within four hours drive of Melbourne.

WHEN TO GO

Notorious for its unpredictability, the state's famous 'four seasons in one day' climate can catch travellers unawares. Locals will suggest dressing in layers, so you can rug up or strip off as the weather dictates, but knowing what to pack can be tricky.

Warm summer days and nights attract the crowds from December to February, Victoria's busiest times for tourism. Average summer highs are around 26°C, but it's not uncommon to find the mercury pushing past 40°C and then plummeting to 19°C. December is party time in the city, which can be a blessing or a curse – bars buzz and waits for taxis can be long. There's also a glut of music festivals and concerts. Victorians take to the road en masse for the Christmas holidays, heading for beachside holiday houses, camping grounds and resorts. Accommodation prices rise considerably in the popular holiday hotspots, particularly on the coast, and rooms are often booked out months in advance. Many shops, cafés and restaurants in Melbourne will have a closed sign in the window come the week between Christmas and New Year. There's still plenty for visitors to do and key attractions will be pleasantly quiet.

Autumn brings mild, still days, with the state's gardens and parks bearing all the tints of a European autumn. The Easter school holiday period in early April is another busy time in the coastal regions and the Grampians, so planning and booking ahead is advised.

June and July are the coldest months, with average maximum temperatures nudging 14°C. It's a great time to do as the locals do: rug up and head off to a game of Aussie rules (football), get cosy at the Melbourne International Film Festival or take to the slopes. There are good snowfields within three hours' drive of the city.

Though Victoria's spring weather can be wildly unpredictable, the respite from win-

ter elevates the city's mood and a string of popular festivals and events see everyone out and about again.

FESTIVALS

Victoria isn't fussy about when it gets festive. Winter's chills or summer's swelter are no excuse, with Melbournians joining like minds at outdoor festivals, in cinemas, performance spaces or sporting venues all year round. Sporting events in particular draw incredibly large crowds; the party often spills out of the stadiums and into the city. Cultural festivals also have enthusiastic audiences, both for the main event and the pre- and after-partying. Summer is celebrated both informally and with festivals that have an obvious emphasis on the outdoors. Regional towns don't miss out, with their own calendar of cultural and sporting celebrations. What follows is a selection; check www.thatsmelbourne.com.au for comprehensive event listings. For a roundup of music festivals, see [p33](#). Public holidays are listed on [p350](#).

January

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

www.australianopen.com; Melbourne Park
The world's top players and huge merry-making crowds descend on the Melbourne Park for Australia's Grand Slam tennis championship. Ground passes make for a grand day out if you're not desperate to see a top seed, otherwise book ahead for arena seats.

MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL

www.midsumma.org.au
Melbourne's annual gay and lesbian arts festival features over 100 events from mid-January to mid-February, with a Pride March finale. Expect everything from film

screenings to a highly camp rowing regatta, history walks to dance parties.

BIG DAY OUT

www.bigdayout.com
National rock fest comes to town at the end of January. Big names are guaranteed, but the local Lily Pad bands often steal the show.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

www.melbournechinatown.com.au; Chinatown, Little Bourke St
Melbourne has celebrated the Chinese lunar new year since Little Bourke St became Chinatown in the 1860s. The time to touch the dragon falls sometime towards the end of January or early February. Eat, drink and dodge the fire crackers.

February

ST KILDA FESTIVAL

www.stkildafestival.com.au; Acland & Fitzroy Sts, St Kilda
This week-long festival ends in a suburb-wide street party on the final Sunday. The crowds are large and laid-back, if not as uniformly bohemian as they once were. Live music is a feature, as well as the annual post card show at Linden Gallery.

ST JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL

www.lanewayfestival.com.au
Indie kids delight in their natural laneway habitat with a line up of international and local acts loving the intimate atmosphere. It's gone national now, but this is where it all began. Held at the end of February, tickets sell out super fast.

MELBOURNE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au
Market tours, wine tastings, cooking classes and presentations by celeb chefs take place at venues across the city in February and/or March. Chew the gastronomic fat or just eat your fill. Restaurants across town offer a great lunch deal that includes a glass of wine – book ahead if possible.

A TASTE OF SLOW

www.atasteofslow.com.au
A Taste of Slow counters our frantically paced culture with a series of events that

highlight Slow principles of tradition, community, conviviality, respect and contemplation. Dinners, public talks, workshops, cooking demonstrations and tastings are held in Melbourne and across regional Victoria. There's also Feast on Film, with food-focused documentaries on show.

HARVEST PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

www.harvestpicnic.com.au
Simmering sensuality and paranormal phenomena don't get a look-in at this enormous group picnic, held at the base of the famous filmic rock. Stalls sell a wide variety of food and wine and there's live entertainment.

HARVEST TO TABLE

www.visitmorningtonpeninsula.org
Mornington Peninsula shines the glasses and cutlery for the annual series of parties, picnics and Pinot tastings in Red Hill.

MOONAH GOLF CLASSIC

www.moonahlinks.com.au
Australasian PGA Tour and Nationwide Tour tournament matches Australian talent against rising stars from the US. The stunning links course has a natural stadium-like setting, great for spectator vantage points.

PAKO FESTA

www.pakofesta.com.au
Geelong celebrates the diverse back-grounds of its community with a slap-up street party on Packington St and other city-wide cultural events.

March

CONTEMPORA SCULPTURE

www.contemporaz2.com.au
Docklands hosts public art projects along the waterfront from March to April.

HELEN LEMPRIERE NATIONAL SCULPTURE AWARD

☎ 131 963; www.lempriereaward.com.au; Werribee Park
This is the country's richest sculpture prize and attracts Australia's leading artists, who install their work in the grounds of Werribee Mansion. A picnic on the grass among the contemporary art has become a Melbourne autumn ritual.

MOOMBA WATERFEST

www.thatsmelbourne.com.au; Alexandra Gardens, Birrarung Marr & Waterfront City Piazza, Docklands Moomba's had something of a new millennium makeover, with the action focussed around the Yarra and Victoria Harbour. An old favourite is the wacky Birdman Rally, where competitors launch themselves into the drink in homemade flying machines.

MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL

www.mff.com.au

This week-long style-fest running from the end of February into March features salon shows and parades showcasing established designers' ranges. Join the air-kiss set or get down with the up-and-comings at one of the many off-shoot happenings around town.

PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL

www.portfairyfolkfestival.com

Historic Port Fairy is charming at any time of year, but fills to the gills with music fans every Labor Day long weekend. Join them for an impressive line-up of roots acts from around the world. Pints of Guinness are optional, sorting your accommodation well in advance is mandatory.

AUSTRALIAN FORMULA ONE GRAND PRIX

www.grandprix.com.au; Albert Park

The 5.3km street circuit around normally tranquil Albert Park Lake is known for its smooth, fast surface. The buzz, both on the streets and in your ears, takes over Melbourne for four fully sick days of rev-head action.

STAWELL GIFT

Easter Monday

www.stawellgift.com

The central-west town of Stawell has held a race meet on Easter Monday since 1878. The main event is the prestigious 120m dash. It's the richest foot race in the country, attracting up to 20,000 visitors.

RIP CURL PRO

www.ripcurl.com/?proHome_en

Held each Easter, the Rip Curl Pro is one of the world's great surfing championships. It attracts big crowds as surfers get together for one last tilt at summer. The event is usually held at Bells Beach, but moves to neighbouring beaches depending on the breaks.

BENDIGO AWAKENING OF THE DRAGON

www.goldendragonmuseum.org

Join the local Chinese community in celebrations with lion dancing, a costume parade and the awakening of Sun Loong with over 100,000 crackers. This festival is unique to Bendigo and they've been making some noise since 1892.

April**ANZAC DAY PARADE**

25 April

www.shrine.org.au; Shrine of Remembrance

Australians remember the WWI Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) defeat at Gallipoli and honour all those who have served in war on 25 April with a sombre dawn service at the Shrine in King's Domain and a veterans parade along St Kilda Rd. The crowd runs the gamut from respectful to jingoistic.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

www.melbflowershow.com.au; Royal Exhibition Bldg & Carlton Gardens

The Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens are taken over by backyard blitzzers, DIY-ers and plenty of dotty old ladies. The Exhibition Building itself hosts the flower show.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

www.comedyfestival.com.au

An enormous range of local and international comic talent hits town with 3½ weeks of stand-up comedy, cabaret, theatre, street performance, film, TV, radio and visual arts. It's spread out across a variety of venues.

WARRNAMBOOL MAY RACING CARNIVAL

www.warrnamboolracing.com.au

This is Australia's premier regional racing carnival and includes a steeplechase event, the longest thoroughbred race in Australia. It also has the most jumps of any worldwide.

APOLLO BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

www.apollobaymusicfestival.com

Ocean views, a laid-back atmosphere and a diverse range of acts make this one of the nicest festivals on the calendar.

HEPBURN SPRINGS SWISS ITALIAN FESTA

www.swissitalianfesta.com

The area's unique Swiss Italian heritage is celebrated in song and food.

May**MELBOURNE JAZZ**

www.melbournejazz.com

International jazz cats head to Melbourne and join locals for gigs at venues around town including Hamer Hall, the Regent Theatre and Palms at Crown.

ST KILDA FILM FESTIVAL

www.stkildaifilmfestival.com.au

Australia's first and arguably best short-film festival, with a great grab-bag of genres and talent on show. Opening night pulls local film industry stars (dressed down for the occasion of course).

GRAMPIANS GRAPE ESCAPE FESTIVAL

www.grampiansgrapeescape.com.au

Gentle gourmet fest with regional food, wine and petanque to ward off the autumn chills. Held in Halls Gap.

NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

www.nextwave.org.au

Biennial festival that lets young artists do their thing. There's a small international contingent, and work includes performance, hybrid and new media and visual arts. Events and exhibitions take place in existing arts institutions as well as those that challenge their very existence. The next festival is in 2010.

July**MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN FESTIVAL**

www.nationaldesigncentre.com

Ten days of exhibitions, forums, design shows, workshops and competitions posit Melbourne as Australia's design hub. The Fed Square design market is a highlight.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au

Midwinter movie love-in brings out black-skvivy-wearing cinephiles in droves. It's

held over two weeks at various cinemas across the city in July and August. (The music doco program is a particular treat.) Festival passes and single session tickets are available.

August**MELBOURNE ART FAIR**

www.artfair.com.au

Biennial art-star gathering, with galleries from across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region setting up shop in the Royal Exhibition Buildings. A party atmosphere prevails for night openings. The next fair is in 2010.

MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL

www.mwf.com.au; Federation Square

Beginning in the last week of August, the writers' festival features 10 days of forums and events celebrating reading, writing, books and ideas. Locals star alongside visiting international authors.

September**AFL GRAND FINAL**

www.afl.com.au; MCG

It's easier to get a goal from the boundary than to pick up random tickets to the grand final. But it's not hard to get your share of finals fever anywhere in Melbourne. Pubs put on big screens and barbecues (often accompanied by a spot of street kick-to-kick at half time). For the truly devoted, there's also the Grand Final Parade on the preceding Friday.

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

www.melbournefringe.com.au

The Fringe takes place in September and October and showcases experimental theatre, music and visual arts.

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

www.royalshow.com.au; Royal Melbourne Showgrounds, Flemington

The country comes to town in September and October for this large agricultural fair. Carnival rides and junk-filled showbags face off against the traditional exhibits. Where else do you get to see the woodchop?

October

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

www.melbournefestival.com.au

Held at various venues around the city, the festival features an always thought-provoking program of Australian and international theatre, opera, dance, visual art and music. The Famous Spiegeltent, which is pitched in the Arts Centre forecourt, lends the Festival some old-world charm and irresistible late-night glamour.

LYGON STREET FESTA

Lygon St, Carlton

Italian community festival with music, soccer matches, a food stall and the famous waiters' race.

SPRING RACING CARNIVAL

www.springracingcarnival.com.au; Flemington Racecourse

Culminating in the prestigious Melbourne Cup, these race-meets are as much social events as sporting ones. The Cup, held on the first Tuesday in November, is a public holiday in Melbourne.

WANGARATTA FESTIVAL OF JAZZ

www.wangaratta-jazz.org.au

This northeastern town hosts over 350 national and international artists each year at Australia's most important jazz festival. The lineup is often stellar; New York greats make regular appearances. Not to be missed by those that like inventive playing and a hothouse atmosphere. Book accommodation well ahead.

AUSTRALIAN MOTORCYCLE GRAND PRIX

www.motogp.com.au

Phillip Island's Grand Prix circuit attracts the world's best bike-riders for this three-day event.

November

QUEENSLIFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

www.qmf.net.au

An out-of-town festival that's possible in a day trip, but the great range of local acts will make you want to stay for the weekend.

BEECHWORTH CELTIC FESTIVAL

www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au

You'll get a warm *fáilte romhaibh* (welcome) at this celebration of the area's Celtic heritage. Lots of old-school events including pipe bands.

December

BOXING DAY TEST

www.mcg.org.au; MCG

Day one of the Boxing Day Test draws out the cricket fans. Crowds are huge and exciting; expect some shenanigans from Bay 13.

MELBOURNE TO HOBART YACHT RACE

www.orcv.org.au; 27 December

Although it's called Melbourne to Hobart, this exciting race actually starts from Portsea on the Mornington Peninsula. It takes the west coast of Tasmania, while the Sydney-to-Hobart-race lads head down the east.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

31 December

www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Fireworks light up the Yarra at 9pm and midnight.

COSTS & MONEY

Melbourne is not a cheap place to visit. Visitors from the US are particularly surprised by restaurant and bar prices, especially at the current exchange rates. Those carrying sterling or euros will find it a little more affordable, but the standard of living is generally high. That said, Melbourne does boast some good midlevel accommodation and its more casual dining options can be great value for money.

HOW MUCH?

Two-hour Metcard \$3.50
Short taxi ride \$10
Pot of Carlton Draft \$3.50
Bottle of drinkable Mornington pinot gris \$18
Well-made martini \$16
Litre of bottled water \$1.75
Café latte \$3
Bowl of pasta \$16
Souvenir t-shirt you're in the wrong town
Unreserved admission to the MCG \$20.30

ADVANCE PLANNING

Three months before you go Book accommodation, especially if your visit coincides with any major events; book a table at Vue du Monde (p128) or the Flower Drum (p129).

Three weeks before you go Nab a table at other fine dining restaurants (p124) or if pizza is more appealing, make your reservation at Ladro (p136); look out for what's on at the Arts Centre (p64), Malthouse (p164) or one of Melbourne's many live music venues and book your tickets.

One week before you go Read this week's Three Thousand (www.threethousand.com.au) missive, sign up to Michigirl (michigirl.com.au) and see what sales Missy Confidential (missyconfidential.com.au) has discovered; check Ticketmaster for AFL fixtures; browse the Age (www.theage.com.au) for new bar and restaurant openings, check the week's weather and pack accordingly; don't forget sunblock, even in winter.

One day to go Make sure you return restaurant confirmation calls; check you've packed a couple of extra pieces of clothing – a scarf, a singlet, and a cardie – in case of unexpected hot or cold snaps; stock up on vitamin B for stamina.

Of course, your holiday can be as cheap or as luxurious as your tastes demand. A mid-range traveller who plans to hire a car, see the sights, stay in midrange B&Bs or hotels, and eat well at restaurants, should expect to spend about \$150 to \$180 per day.

At the low-cost end, if you camp or stay in hostels, cook your own meals, avoid big nights out in the pub and catch public transport everywhere, you could probably manage on \$60 per day; for a budget that realistically enables you to have a good time, set aside \$80. Of course, these low-cost figures don't factor in sampling the things Melbourne is so good at: food, fashion and bars.

Most accommodation options have cheaper rates for stays of longer than a week and many offer self-catering rooms. Shopping at Melbourne's markets and cooking a few meals can help cut down on food costs and you'll have the added bonus of feeling like a local.

Currency exchange rates are on the inside front cover. See also Directory, p352.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Melbourne is well-documented online.

ABC Melbourne Podtours (www.abc.net.au/melbourne/podtours/default.htm) Great little series of podcasts that get under Melbourne's skin.

The Age (www.theage.com.au) Not just the daily news: Melbourne's broadsheet likes to keep up with what's going on in the way of entertainment too. Extraordinarily comprehensive bar and restaurant reviews are a feature.

Art Almanac (www.art-almanac.com.au) Stalwart art listings magazine which covers both public and commercial galleries.

Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au/weather/vic) The BOM do up-to-the-minute information on Victorian weather and warnings.

Lost and Found (www.visitvictoria.com/lostandfound) An email newsletter with a focus on creative spaces and events from Visit Victoria, plus a Facebook page with regular updates.

Missy Confidential (www.missyconfidential.com.au) Up-to-date details of all the retail sales.

Three Thousand (www.threethousand.com.au) Weekly newsletter with the very hottest tips on music, fashion, bars and other goings on around the city, though you'll need to cut through the sass.

Parks Victoria (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) Excellent site, with extensive profiles on all of Victoria's national and marine parks.

That's Melbourne (www.thatsmelbourne.com.au) Easy to use and not overly hyped guide for travellers care of the city council.

Tourism Victoria (www.visitvictoria.com) Official state tourism site, with excellent sections on festivals and events, accommodation, restaurants, tours and attractions.

Stencil Revolution (www.stencilrevolution.com) Good resource for anyone looking for information on Melbourne's often elusive (though always in your face) stencil art scene.

Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au) Official website of the state government of Victoria, and gateway to information and services in the state.

SUSTAINABLE MELBOURNE

Given Melbourne's location at the very bottom of the world, there's not a lot a traveller can do to lessen the impact of air travel. A new age of passenger liners might be upon us, but not quite yet. Travelling between Australian cities also involves vast distances, and there are no rapid train services that make rail such an attractive alternative in Europe.

If you're not venturing out of the city, you won't need a rental car – the city's public transport system can get you everywhere you'll want to go and save you on the hassle of parking. Consider hiring a bike (p171) to explore parkland, the bay or the banks of the Yarra.

The drought that has gripped the southeastern states of Australia is an ongoing concern. Even if substantial rains fall, the problems with the city and the state's water supply look like they are here to stay. Mandatory water restrictions are in place for residents, who are forbidden to use hoses or sprinklers to water their gardens or wash their cars. Do your bit by being conscious of your water usage while in the city. Simple measures like

cutting down on shower times and ensuring taps aren't left running (while brushing your teeth for instance) can make a real difference. Make sure you take the half-flush option when you flush the loo and rehang your towels in your hotel bathroom so the house cleaning staff don't wash them after every use.

Other things that will score green points are saying no to plastic bags (you'll notice locals use violently green reusable bags sold by supermarkets for a token amount), using refillable water bottles for drinking and making sure all your litter, including cigarette butts, goes in the bin (the correct bin too – recycling bins are often an option). If you stamp butts out in the street, it's an odds-on bet they'll end up in the bay.

THE AUTHORS

Donna Wheeler



Born in Sydney, and brought up a fishing rod's flick from the harbour, Donna knew her Darlinghurst days were numbered when she first set eyes upon a fog-clad St Kilda Pier as a teenage art student. There have been stints in New York, London and rural Ireland, but Melbourne's art scene, bands, bars, coffee and wry sense of self has held her wandering eye for almost two decades.

Donna has commissioned food guides and online features for Lonely Planet and has worked as a digital producer, content strategist and art director. She has studied visual arts, English literature and is a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing program. She now devotes her time to freelance writing and editing. This is her second book for Lonely Planet.

Jocelyn Harewood



Jocelyn lives in Melbourne but regional Victoria is her holiday destination. From snow-skiing to water-skiing, bush-camping to lazing by a river, wine touring to gourmet retreats, she always heads north a way. She even sets her teenage-fiction books in Victoria's towns because they provide such interest-

ing backgrounds. When she's not writing she's playing with the grandkids (the number keeps increasing) or doing word puzzles and sudokus.

Cath Lanigan



three years, where she worked as a journalist on a local newspaper.

Cath has lived in East Gippsland for the past eight years and explores Gippsland's national parks, beaches and coastal towns as often as she can with her partner and two children. Cath also lived in South Gippsland for

Rowan McKinnon



the 1970s, but now lives in the inner south-east with his partner and children and a mortgage on a modest weatherboard house. Rowan's worked on many Lonely Planet books including three Australian titles, but mostly works in the islands of the South Pacific.

Rowan is a freelance writer and musician, and a native Melburnian. He knows that his home town is Australia's greatest city and one of the world's great places to live. He grew up on the outer bayside suburban fringe in

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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